(d) In order to redress the grievances of the workers and avert the production/wage loss, conciliation proceedings were held by Regional Labour Commissioners (Central). Besides this, the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) held a meeting with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organizations on 19.5.2003. Hon'ble Labour Minister also met the representatives of the unions and discussed their Charter of Demands with them. However, the Central Trade Unions did not agree to call off the proposed strike and resorted to nation wide strike on 21.5.2003.

Statement

Details of demands raised by Trade Unions

(i) Halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings.

(ii) No change in the labour laws in favour of the employers and against the interest of the workers.

(iii) Immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers.

(iv) No to policies leading to severe aggravation of joblessness and unemployment.

(v) Widen comprehensive social security schemes for all, including workers in unorganised sector.

(vi) Restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports.

(vii) Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceiling.

(viii) Restoration of 12% interest rate on P.F. deposits.

EPF Trustees

1282. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exempted Independent Trustees managing EPF and the amount managed by them;

(b) if these trustees have lower yields on PF than the prescribed 9 per cent norm, whether the companies are required to pay from their pockets to make up the shortfall; and

(c) if not, whether the Employees' PF Organisation would step in to manage PF of such exempted companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 31.3.2003,2564 establishment having total corpus of Rs. 36,804.67 crores have been exempted from provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952.

(b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the conditions for grant of exemption notified under para 27AA of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, the deficiency in the rate of interest shall be made good by the employer.

(c) The exempted establishment have to comply with the terms and conditions prescribed under para 27AA of the EPF Scheme, 1952 for grant of exemption. In case of non-compliance by the exempted establishments, an appropriate action including cancellation of exemption as per the provisions of the EPF Scheme, 1952 is taken by the Government.

Labour unrest in Assam Tea Estates

1283. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in several Tea Gardens in Assam which led to the Killings of several Managers of some of the Gardens;

(b) whether it is a fact that the living conditions of the labourers have not been improved and also there is no increase in their wages and other facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what effective measures have been devised to eradicate the grievances of the workers as surfaced during such unrest?